

Evaluating Apps

Title: Starfall on Apple iPad

Evaluator: Molly Allen

Questions	Yes	No	Comments/ Notes
Have you played enough to know every aspect? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Did you try things that were wrong and/or unexpected	X		
Did the software crash?		X	
Was the content appropriate? Did it meet the user's needs?	X		
Were the screens appealing? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Color, items on screen, sounds	X		The screen was very colorful and bright. This would be great for younger students.
Is it easy to navigate?	X		
Is it easy to learn?	X		
Does the user need Supervision to use		X	
If the App required a response, was it appropriate? (right or wrong)	X		The app will tell you goodbye when switching to a different topic. The narrator tells you what to do for each activity. Once you click on the correct answer of the activity, it

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			says "Great, it is ten o'clock".
<p>Were there bells and whistles?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If so, do they enhance instead of detract? • If not, should there be? 		X	
Did you like using the App?	X		
<p>What was the cost?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was there a "lite" version <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If so, was it enough 	X	X	It is free, but if you want more of the content you would have to become a member.
<p>Were there in-app purchases?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If so, what were the additional costs? 		X	
How does it compare to other apps that do the same?		X	This app is strictly just songs and listening activities. It does not teach or challenge you.
Additional Comments			

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Developmentally Appropriate

Questions	Yes	No	Comments/ Notes
Child Development and Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject Matter appropriate? • Educational Focus? • Provides for Learning New Content? • Follows Appropriate Teaching Sequence? 	X		
Individual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does it match individual's abilities? • Does it meet individual's needs? 		X	The app does not track your progress. It simply is a playing app.
Social/Cultural <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bias? • Commercialism Comments 		X	

Version: 1.26.010

Publisher: Starfall Education, LLC

Target Audience: 4+, Made for ages 0-5

Type: This app is a mixture of drill and practice and discovery learning. It is drill and practice because most of the information on there is information the students should have already previously learned. It is discovery learning because the students have the ability to pick which activity they would like to do.

Curriculum: This can be used as a brain break in class. The songs are joyful and would get students excited about learning the next subject after viewing the videos.

Cost: Free with no in app purchases but can be become a member to gain more access.

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When you first open the app, there is a colorful homepage that asks if you are already a member. If you aren't then you can have 2 activities per group for free. There are Math songs, ABC content, numbers 1-100, geometry and measurement, add and subtract math skills, reading books, etc. The reading will even sound out words that you do not know by clicking on them. There is a place to where you can create your person to look like yourself. There are even Historical American Folk Songs. To keep the students engaged, when a book is being read it makes them press the arrow to go to the next page. This app is great for 2-7 years old.

I liked how the videos were very appealing and the songs were catchy. However, I noticed that on the Telling Time activity, it asks you what time it is and has a timer going off in the background. That can be very annoying and frustrating to students who are trying to focus and concentrate on getting the answer. Then, if you are taking too long to answer the question, a hand pops up and points to the correct answer for you to choose. I do not like that because it does not give the child time to think for themselves. I like how the activities coordinate with what type of season it is. After you complete the activity, they sing a song of time to you. However, it does not show that you have completed that activity.